

In the Claims

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1.-32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently amended) A method for assessing a compound's ability to specifically inhibit JNK kinase activity in a mammal susceptible to or having a neurological condition, comprising:

(a) incubating said compound in the presence of JNK and a JNK substrate, under conditions sufficient for kinase activity;

(b) determining the presence or amount of a phosphorylated JNK substrate, wherein a decrease in the presence or amount of the phosphorylated JNK substrate, when compared to incubating JNK with the JNK substrate absent the compound, is indicative of the compound's ability to inhibit the kinase activity of JNK;

(a) (c) administering to an animal said compound under conditions sufficient to allow for proper pharmacodynamic absorption and distribution thereof in the animal;

(b) (d) harvesting a neuronal tissue sample from the animal and

(e) (e) determining apoptosis in the tissue sample;

wherein a decrease in apoptosis in the neuronal tissue sample, when compared to apoptosis in a neuronal tissue sample from an animal not administered the compound, is indicative of the compound's ability to specifically inhibit JNK kinase activity in a mammal susceptible to or having a neurological condition.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein JNK is JNK1, JNK2 or JNK3, or combinations thereof.

35.-43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently amended) The method of claim 33, wherein apoptosis in step (e) is determined using a TUNEL assay.

45. (Currently amended) The method of claim 33, wherein apoptosis in step (e) is determined by administration of γ -³²P-ATP to the animal and detecting the amount of phosphorylated c-Jun in the neuronal tissue sample.

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46. (Currently amended) The method of claim 33, wherein apoptosis in step (e) is determined by Hoechst 33342 staining.

47. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the JNK substrate of step a) includes c-Jun and a phosphate donor.

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